LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A tablet computer assembly, comprising:

a global positioning system module that produces location information associated with the position of the tablet computer assembly;

an L-band transceiver that broadcasts the location information ~~to at least one portable communication device through a~~ to a satellite relay ~~network~~ and receives location information from the at least one portable communications device via the satellite relay ~~network~~; and

a processing unit that provides messages to the L-band transceiver and updates a display associated with the tablet computer assembly according the received location information and the location information produced at the global positioning system module.

2   (Original): The tablet computer assembly of claim 1, the processing unit comprising a system memory that contains geographic information concerning an area of interest.

3.   (Original): The tablet computer assembly of claim 2, the system memory comprising at least one flash memory card.

4.   (Original): The tablet computer assembly of claim 1, further comprising an input/output board that regulates power and logic connections between the processing unit and the L-band transceiver.

5.   (Original): The tablet computer assembly of claim 1, the display associated with the processing unit being a touchscreen display.

6.   (Original): The tablet computer assembly of claim 1, further comprising a single, detachable antenna that can be operatively connected to the tablet computer by a user to facilitate the transmission and reception of messages by the L-band transmitter and the global positioning module.

7.   (Original): The tablet computer assembly of claim 6, the recite.

8.   Cancelled.

9.   (Original): The tablet computer assembly of claim 1, further comprising a Faraday cage that encloses the L-band transceiver to reduce electromagnetic interference.

10.   (Currently Amended): The tablet computer assembly of claim ~~1~~9, ~~further comprising a heat sink that~~ ~~draws~~ the Faraday cage being configured as a heat sink to draw heat from the L-band transceiver away from the processing unit.

11.   (Currently Amended): A vehicle communications system comprising:
              a dismount communications device, comprising:
                      a global positioning system module that determines the location of the device;
                      an L-band transceiver that broadcasts the determined location to a satellite relay and receives location data from at least one portable communications device via the ~~a~~ satellite relay; and
                      a tablet computer that provides a user interface for the global positioning module and the L-band transceiver; and

a mounting unit that allows the dismount communication device to be mechanically fixed to the interior of a vehicle and electrically connected to a power supply within the vehicle.

12.   (Original): The system of claim 11, the dismount communications device further comprising an input/output board that translates communications between the L-band transceiver and the tablet computer.

13.   (Original): The system of claim 11, the tablet computer comprising an internal power supply, the internal power supply being operatively connected to the communications module.

14.   (Original): The system of claim 13, the mounting unit providing an electrical connection between the vehicle power supply and the internal power supply.

15.   (Original): The system of claim 11, the received data being location data associated with the at least one portable communications device.

16.   (Currently Amended): A method of updating location information at a tablet computer via a communications relay network, comprising:

determining the location of the tablet computer at regular intervals via a global positioning system;

broadcasting the determined location on an L-band frequency ~~via~~ to a satellite associated with the relay network ~~to at least one communications device~~;

receiving location information from at least one portable communications device on an L-band frequency via the relay network at the tablet computer; and

displaying the determined location and the received location information on a display associated with the tablet computer.

17.   (Original): The method of claim 16, further comprising encoding routing information within the L-band broadcast of the determined location.

18.   (Original): The method of claim 17, the routing information indicating at least one of a plurality of portable communication devices as an intended recipient.

19.   (Original): The method of claim 18, further comprising analyzing the routing information to determine if the tablet computer is an intended recipient of the received location information.

20.   (Currently Amended): A tablet computer assembly, comprising:
        means for determining the location of the tablet computer relative to a standard set of coordinates;
        means for transmitting the determined location to a satellite relay ~~to at least one portable communications device~~;
        means for receiving location information from at least one portable communications device; and
        means for displaying the determined location and the received location information on a geographic map.

21.   (Original): The tablet computer assembly of claim 20, further comprising means for receiving input from a user.

22.   (Currently Amended): The tablet computer assembly of claim 21, the means for transmitting the determined location to ~~at least one portable communication device~~ a satellite

relay including means for transmitting a preset text message with the location information in response to user input.

23. (Original): The tablet computer assembly of claim 20, further comprising software means for controlling the power consumption of at least one of the means for transmitting, the means for determining, and the means for displaying.

24. (Original): The tablet computer assembly of claim 23, the software means comprising means for providing user control of the power consumption of at least one of the means for transmitting, the means for determining, and the means for displaying.

25. (Original): The tablet computer assembly of claim 23, the software means comprising means for adjusting power consumption for at least one of the means for transmitting, the means for determining, and the means for displaying in response to at least one predetermined condition.